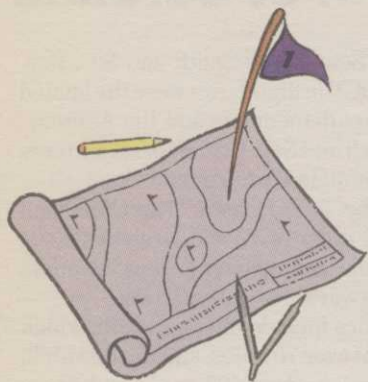


BRIEFS



KOCH, ROBBINS JOIN FORCES

TAMPA, Fla. — Gary Koch, president of Gary Koch Golf, Inc. and Richard Robbins, president of Robbins & Associates, International, Inc. have formed Robbins Koch Golf Designs, Inc. Robbins Koch will provide golf course design, master planning and construction management services in the United States, as well as selected projects in Asia. Koch, a six-time winner on the PGA Tour and golf analyst for ESPN-TV, began his career in golf course design in 1990 when he was selected to design the Las Colinas course at Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort, near Orlando. Robbins has actively practiced course design, land planning and project management for more than 20 years.

MORE BUILDERS CERTIFIED

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The Golf Course Builders Association of America has approved a second group of companies as certified golf course builders. They are Central Florida Turf of Avon



Bill Kubly, certified

Park, Fla. (Jeffrey Harstine, president); Environmental Golf of Santa Ana, Calif. (S. Gene Giannulli, president); Fairway Construction of Temecula, Calif. (Glen A. Gosch);

Landscapes Unlimited of Lincoln, Neb. (Bill Kubly, president). GCBA Executive Director Phil Arnold called the certified builders "a very elite group."

MASON'S AWBREY GLEN OPENS

BEND, Ore. — The Awbrey Glen Golf Club held its grand opening July 23-25, featuring the groundbreaking ceremonies for its 15,000-square-foot clubhouse. Mark Wendt Construction has been awarded the contract to build the clubhouse. The 18-hole, 7,007-yard championship private golf course, designed by Gene "Bunny" Mason, is now open to members and limited outside play.

NIEBUR MOVES, KEEPS BUSY

MEDFORD, Ore. — Niebur Golf, which has been operating out of Atlanta, Ga., has moved its headquarters here, according to Joe Niebur. Niebur recently completed construction of AnnBriar Golf Course in Waterloo, Ill., and is working on an 18-hole course that will be the centerpiece of the Meriwood at Hawks Prairie subdivision in Olympia, Wash. Weyerhaeuser and Vicwood are developers and Bill Overdorf is the course architect for the Meriwood facility. Niebur's new address is 820 Crater Lake Road, Suite 205, Medford 97504; 503-779-2771.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

Swan-e-Set bills construction as embracing 'new era' of harmony

By PETER M. BRUYERE

In its promotional brochure, Swan-e-Set Bay Resort and Country Club claims it "embraces the new era of environmental harmony in which man and nature can once again find a rare beautiful balance."

Swan-e-Set is the \$120 million Lee Trevino-designed golf course soon to open in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Canada. The 36-hole course will be spread over 922 acres of riverfront property.

To ensure "environmental harmony," the Swan-e-Set Environmental Task Force was formed. It was comprised of members from the provincial and federal ministries of the environment, as well as members of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Canadian Wildlife Services. TERA Planning, an environmental consulting firm, rounded out the committee. In conjunction with eight other firms, TERA put together a 400-page environmental impact assessment.

According to TERA President Helmut Urhahn, there is a "no net loss" policy for fish habitats in British Columbia. During construction of a golf course, if a fish habitat is lost, a new one must be

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The 16th hole at Wailea's new Gold Course.

Robert Trent Jones Jr. adds touch to the 'new look' at Wailea resort

From staff reports

MAUI, Hawaii — Two distinctly different golf courses — one wild and demanding, the other traditional and landscaped — are taking shape at the former Orange Course at Wailea, with housing nowhere in sight.

Robert Trent Jones II International is completely changing the old 18-hole Orange Course into two tracks, a new Orange Course and a Gold Course. Combined with the resort-style Blue Course, these will give Wailea 54 very varied holes.

Jones' lead architect Gary Linn said the "pure golf" facility is new for Maui and rare for anywhere in the Hawaiian islands. The no-housing concept was incorporated by Shinwa Golf Group when it bought the property several years ago.

When the project is complete, none of the original 18 holes of the Orange Course

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Tennessee offers \$20M in bonds for golf projects

By MARK LESLIE

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Developers are being invited to apply for \$20 million in general obligation bonds the state of Tennessee is offering for construction and operation of golf courses on state land, including eight state parks.

Under discussion for years, the plan was passed by the state Legislature on July 1. The deadline for proposals is Sept. 15.

Erskin Bonds, who manages the state's golf courses, said feasibility studies were done in 1988 for Reelfoot Lake State Park in Tiptonville, Chickasaw State Park in Henderson, Natchez Trace State Park in Wildersville, Tims Ford State Park on Normandy Reservoir, Rock Island State Park in McMinnville, Panther Creek in Morristown, Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon, and Old Stone Fort in Manchester, where a nine-hole course already exists

State land available for feasible projects

and nine more would be added. He said non-park state land could also be used, if an appropriate parcel is found.

"There's always a demand for golf courses," Bonds said. "How much, I don't know. We do very well with the eight we currently operate." The state has eight golf courses in state parks — seven championship layouts and the nine-holer in Lebanon.

Bonds said all types of proposals will be accepted.

"There are any number of options. A person may give us a lock-and-key arrangement and make it work. Maintenance contracts could be involved. We could run it...

"But in any case, they have to pay off the bonds in 20 years. After

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Mark McCumber: Designer cum Tour pro



Mark McCumber is an anomaly in this world of golf and course architecture. McCumber was designing his first golf course before he earned his PGA Tour card. He learned golf, and to love the game early, growing up at Hyde Park Golf Club in Jacksonville, Fla., where he and brothers Jim, Gary and Tim earned free greens fees by digging up crabgrass. They later formed a golf course construction company that has evolved into Mark McCumber & Associates architectural firm in Jacksonville. McCumber has juggled his playing career, winning close to \$3 million, with his love for design.

Golf Course News: Only two professional golfers — you and Jack Nicklaus — are members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). Obviously, you're serious about this part of your work. How serious? And how does it compare to your devotion to the play-side?

Mark McCumber: I think my situation may be one of the most unusual of Tour players who are doing "golf architecture." My brother started a landscape company in 1969. Out of school [Brooklyn Bethel College in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y.] I went to work for him in 1971 — literally working in the ground as a landscape designer, doing state jobs,

regional malls, big irrigation jobs. We used to get irrigation jobs for golf courses back in the early '70s — always knowing we wanted to be in the golf course building and design business, preferably design. But we had to get into it by the back door by the construction side. In 1978 we got our first piece of land and started designing our first golf course before I even had my Tour card. So I got my Tour card in July of 1978 while we were in the middle of designing our first golf course — The Ravines, which to this day is one of our most dramatic pieces of land. So the irony is that this is something I had been doing before I ever won money swinging a golf club.

I have a passion for both — tremendously and equally. The one thing I am trying to do this year — which has made both jobs better — is try to segregate the two. They are intertwined, but while I'm playing I'm trying to only think about playing those five days on tour. Then when I come home, I'm dedicating time to design.

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Nugent's Heritage Bluffs opens in Illinois

CHANNAHON, Ill. — Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club, the Channahon Park District's newest facility, opened for public play Aug. 3.

Located on 166 rolling, wooded acres just north of the Des Plaines River, the Dick Nugent-designed Heritage Bluffs features four tee boxes at each hole, with the par-72 course playing at lengths ranging from 4,967 to 7,106 yards.

A computerized irrigation system will ensure great conditions on the bentgrass fairways, and the putting

greens built to U.S. Golf Association specifications.

The course also includes a practice range with four target greens, bentgrass tees, and mats for use in wet conditions. Construction of Heritage Bluffs was completed by Wadsworth Golf Construction Co. of Plainfield.

Park District Board President Carol Hoffman said. "Channahon Park District residents — and golfers from throughout the area — will be the beneficiaries of one of the top golf courses anywhere."

Mountaintop track opens in S. Carolina

LANDRUM, S.C. — The Cliffs Golf & Country Club, South Carolina's only mountaintop golf course, has been officially dedicated in ceremonies attended by Gov. Carroll Campbell.

The club is the centerpiece of The Cliffs at Glassy, a 3,000-acre resort/residential community that sits on the top of Glassy Mountain at the front range of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Situated at 3,000 feet above sea level, it commands striking views of neighboring mountain ranges, plus more than 70 miles of the state's Piedmont Region, including the nearby cities of Greenville and Spartanburg.

Attending the dedication were U.S. Rep. Bob

Ingliss, S.C. Sen. Verne Smith and S.C. Rep. David Wilkins. The dignitaries were the invited guests of the club members and Jim Anthony, Frank Bridwell and Sam Cox, general partners in Glassy Mountain Development Co.

Designed by Tom Jackson, The Cliffs Golf Club plays to a par of 72 and stretches 6,804 yards from the championship tees. It offers bentgrass fairways, greens and tees.

Feature holes include the par-3 13th, which offers views of over 70 miles, and the downhill, par-5 18th, which plays 606 yards and drops nearly 150 feet from tee to green.

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Wailea addition

Continued from page 21

will exist. Last fall the first new nine was completed and golfers began playing a composite 18 holes. Linn said the second phase of construction is finishing now, bringing on line another nine holes.

In October, construction will begin on the clubhouse and the second, new 18 holes.

The Gold Course will be "longer and scarier," Linn said, designed for championship play at more than 7,000 yards.

The Orange Course will be "a more fun, resort course with wider fairways, open-entrance greens, that sort of design," playing 6,600 yards.

All four nines will return to the clubhouse, which Linn said stands halfway up the hill on the property.

The site's 200-foot elevation change, he said, "is a plus in that you get fabulous views any way you look. But picking up that elevation meant stair-stepping the holes. Both starting holes eat up that elevation change and play down to the ocean.

"One drops 100 feet, the other about 90 feet. Then you work your way back up the slope. Both 18th holes play at the highest point of the property back down to the clubhouse."

Jones and Linn have designed the Gold Course to fit the theme of "wild and demanding."

"Look-wise, we're using a lot of unirrigated native grass — called natal redtop," Linn said. "It has a reddish-pinkish seedhead, and the grass turns a golden color so you get the blowing-in-the-wind contrast."

"The Orange Course is the opposite: a traditional, tropical Hawaiian oasis look, with flowers — lush garden look."

The builders maintained archeological sites and incorporated them into the courses. "You get nice visual contrast between the lush Bermudagrass and the lava," Linn said.

Shinwa Golf, a major promoter of tournaments, also bought the Stouffer Hotel, the shopping village and other vacant land in Wailea that will be developed into housing away from the golf courses.

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